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Town of

Easton

New Hampshire



**ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Year Ending
December 31, 1998**

1998 Town of Easton Annual Report

It is a pleasure and honor to dedicate this year's Annual Report to the unsung heroes of our Town. These are the Volunteers whose spirit mainly goes without recognition. Now is the time to give their accomplishments their just due.

Please look around our Town Hall and take notice of the improvements such as the finished windows whose multiple coats of protectants will hold them in good stead for future decades. The new paint inside and out. As you leave this Hall notice too the sparkling ramp whose years of mildew and neglect have been addressed. As you gaze towards the parking lot a small pond is revealed. Many did not know that we had one. "New" donated and refurbished fire equipment keeps our Town poised to defend against the destruction and devastation that fire can pose. The streets are devoid of the eyesore of roadside rubbish which we pass to see the great improvements to our cemetery, the hallowed ground of our past citizens. Soon we will enjoy the improved Transfer Station we share with our neighbors. This was greatly due to one of Easton's own. Speaking of Easton's own, and not Franconia's, has the honor of having a citizen participate in our official State sport of skiing on the Olympic Stage.

We also thank those, that gave of their time and energy, for participating in the Town's governmental affairs for little or no pay. Some working pro bono to insure the quality of life that led us here in the first place. Yes, it's wonderful to live in a Town that is nearly 2/3's park land, but we are truly blessed to have such people to make this community our home.

Thank you one and all.

Town of Easton
ANNUAL REPORT
of the Town Officers

for the year ending December 31, 1998

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TOWN OFFICERS

Board Of Selectmen

Mark Brooks - 1999
Gregory M. Sorg - 2000
Robert Craven - 2001

Town Clerk

Barbara J. Collier

Treasurer

Jeanne Duggan

Auditor

Ralph Brigida

Tax Collector

Barbara J. Collier

Moderator

Jim Collier - 2000

Lafayette School Board

Robert Hackett

Cemetery Trustees

Gregory Sorg - 1999
Joseph Duggan - 2000
Robert Every - 2001

Planning Board

Jim Collier - 1999
Andrew Noyes - 2000
Anita Craven - 2001
Jeff Morgan - 2002
Patricia Bontempi - Alternate
Gregory Sorg (Ex Officio)

Trustee of the Trust Funds

Mary Ann Chippendale - 2001

Supervisors of Checklist

Lois Hackett - 2000
Patricia Every - 2002
M. Joan Laboe - 2004

APPOINTED OFFICIALS & BOARD MEMBERS

Fire Chief

Charles Casey

Zoning Board

Dennis Ford - 1999
Joseph Exley - 2000
Karl Hunninghaus (Alt) - 2000
Kathleen Thibault - 2001
Robert Every - 2001
Mark Brooks (Ex Officio)

Conservation Commission

Brenda Shannon - 1998
Michael Kenney - 1999
Jim Collier - 2000

Chief of Police

Robert Every

Health Officer

Dr. Parker Towle

Recreation Committee

Laurie Zeiser
Ryan Boissonneault

Emergency Manager

Arthur Rainville

**TOWN OF EASTON
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
MARCH 9, 1999**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Easton in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 9, 1999. Polls will be open from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. for ballot voting on Articles 1 and 2. The Town's annual business meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m., to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year (ballot vote.)

ARTICLE 2. Telecommunications Ordinance

Are you in favor of the adoption of an Amendment to the Easton Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: (1) Under Article 6, Section 601, c) Other uses permitted; adding 4) Telecommunications facilities (towers) as provided in Sections 607, and 809. (2) Adopt a new Section 607, A. Establishing general guidelines for the siting of telecommunications towers and antennas. (3) Adding to Section 302, B under definitions defining terms; and (4) under Article 8, adding a new Section 809 providing for the construction, limitations, maintenance and removal of telecommunication towers and facilities. (Recommended by the Planning Board and the Selectmen.)

ARTICLE 3. Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,262.24 for general Town operations:

4130 - Executive	\$ 5,595.00
4140 - Election, Registration & Vital Stats	2,150.00
4150 - Financial Administration	1,915.00
4152 - Revaluation of Property	500.00
4153 - Legal Expense	10,000.00
4155 - Personnel Administration	375.00
4191 - Planning & Zoning	460.00
4194 - General Government Buildings	3,124.00
4195 - Cemeteries	1,700.00
4196 - Insurance	4,450.00
4197 - Advertising & Reg. Associations	1,245.24
4199 - Contingency Fund	5,000.00
4210 - Police Department	4,300.00
4215 - Ambulances	1,330.00
4220 - Fire Department	11,900.00
4290 - Forest Fire Fighting & Training	500.00
4299 - Communications	1,500.00
4312 - Highways	24,000.00
4323 - Hazardous Waste Collection	0.00
4324 - Solid Waste Collection	17,000.00

4414 - Animal Control	100.00
4415 - Health Agencies	761.00
4419 - Hospice	200.00
4442 - Welfare - General Assistance	500.00
4449 - Tri-County Community Action	400.00
4520 - Recreation Programs	4,207.00
4612 - Conservation Commission	200.00
4723 - Interest on TAN Note	250.00
4902 - Capital Outlay Equipment	<u>1,600.00</u>
TOTAL	\$105,262.24

ARTICLE 4. Tri-Town Intergovernmental Agreement for the Management of Solid Waste.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a joint agreement with the Towns of Franconia and Sugar Hill for the management of solid waste, more specifically defined in **Tri-Town Intergovernmental Agreement for the Management of Solid Waste**. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 5. Operation of the Tri-Town Transfer Station.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$18,960.00 and transfer this amount from its accumulated surplus to pay its proportional share of the estimated costs for rebuilding, purchasing equipment for, and operating the Tri-Town Transfer Station. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 6. Franconia Children's Center

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) for the support of the Franconia Children's Center. (The Selectmen do not recommend the adoption of this Article, but have agreed to place it in the Warrant so that the Townspeople may decide.)

ARTICLE 7. Easton Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be placed in the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for equipment acquisition and replacement for the Easton Fire Department. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 8. Resurfacing/Repairing Town Roads

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to continue the program of resurfacing and repairing Town roads to include in 1999: Ruskin Road, Gingerbread Road and Gibson Road. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 9. Capital Reserve Fund for Town Offices

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for the remodeling, building or purchasing of Town Offices, and to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) and transfer this amount from its accumulated surplus to be placed in this fund, and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to administer and expend this fund. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 10. Solid Waste Management Ordinance

To see if the Town will adopt an ordinance governing the rules, regulations, and penalties associated with the operation of the Tri-Town Transfer Station, more specifically defined in **Solid Waste Management Ordinance**. (The Selectmen recommend adoption of this Article.)

ARTICLE 11. To act upon any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Selectmen of Easton,
Mark W. Brooks, Chair
Gregory M. Sorg
Robert B. Craven

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE TOWN

Town Election Day	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Tuesday, March 9
Town Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday, March 9
Firemen’s Field Day and Barbecue		Usually the last Saturday in June

The meetings of the Kinsman Valley club have been changed to the first Tuesday at the Town Hall at 9:30 a.m.

All women residents of Easton are invited to join the Kinsman Valley Club which devotes its efforts to the betterment of the community and the establishment of congenial relationships throughout.

The following reports will be available at the Town Clerk’s Office.

- Grafton County Commissioners
- Hospice of the Littleton Area
- Tri-County Community Action Report
- Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc.
- White Mountain Mental Health
- UNH Cooperative Extension - Grafton County Annual Report

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

This has been an eventful year for us. In addition to conducting the usual business of the Town, we have been occupied with several items that have significant impact to the Town, which we shall report on specifically.

Town Library. Our Town Library has fallen into total disuse, and we now feel that it is time to make better use of this space. Our plan is to sell/give away all general books currently in the Library, and, as part of the general Town Hall remodeling (see below), turn the Library into a reading room, which would be located on the first floor for better accessibility. This reading room, as envisioned, would house all Town historical books, records, and artifacts, and be open to the public for longer periods than is the current Town Library.

Remodeling Town Hall. Currently, most Town Offices are housed in the homes of Town Officials. We feel that as the complexities of municipal government and its associated paperwork increases, the Town will be faced with the need for larger and more centralized quarters for its Town Offices, and more storage space for its records. Moreover, centralizing Town Offices might encourage more individuals to participate in Town government.

Accordingly, we have initiated a preliminary study of remodeling our Town Hall. Our thought is that a remodeled Town Hall would have an attached Town Office for our Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and other Town Officials. We feel that this remodeling should also include: 1) bringing the building's electrical wiring up to code; 2) upgrading the kitchen and bathroom to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act; 3) adding a reading room on the first floor; and 4) converting the Library and Selectmen's Office on the second floor, to an enlarged office and storage area.

We will be seeking additional citizen input on this proposed plan to remodel the Town Hall and will reestablish the Capital Improvement Committee to help develop it more fully.

Remodeled Tri-Town Solid Waste Transfer Station and New PAYT Waste Disposal Policy. There are several disturbing waste disposal trends occurring which could have a significant cost impact to our Town, and which have required our attention: 1. Landfills throughout the State are rapidly filling up, and it is unlikely that new ones will be developed to replace them. 2. Commercial waste management companies are consolidating, in order to form monopolies and drive up waste disposal fees for users of their facilities. These trends are resulting in rapidly rising waste disposal costs for the three Towns of Easton, Franconia, and Sugar Hill, which jointly share in the operating costs of the Tri-Town Solid Waste Transfer Station, located in Franconia.

The Selectmen have been working in concert with the Selectmen of Franconia and Sugar Hill, to implement an improved solid waste disposal plan developed by a citizen volunteer Tri-Town Waste Management Committee. This Committee, which is composed of residents of the three affected Towns, has developed a plan for increased recycling and improved operation of the Tri-Town Solid Waste Transfer Station. This plan includes: a) changing to a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) trash disposal program (planned to go into effect January 1, 2000), in which all persons using the facility would be required to dispose of their solid waste in pre-purchased special trash bags; b) remodeling the Transfer Station, in order to permit greater and more convenient recycling; c) hiring a professional Facility Manager to run it; and d) providing additional disposal and recycling services.

From the experiences of neighboring Towns, we expect that changing to a PAYT program, the Tri-Town Transfer Station would significantly improve our recycling rate. This is the right thing to do in terms of its impact on our environment, and it would ultimately result in lower waste disposal costs for our Townspeople. We actively support the plan proposed by the Tri-Town Waste Management Committee.

Strimbeck Suit Against Town. The Town continues to be embroiled in litigation with the Strimbecks. This litigation centers on the continuing dispute between the Town and the Strimbecks as to whether their Bungay Jardins greenhouse-gift shop operation is a permitted use, as opposed to a special exception use, under the Town Zoning Ordinance. There have been several suits regarding this issue, and the saga of the ensuing legal proceedings is too tortuous and convoluted to recount here. In March 1998, the Zoning Board of Adjustment granted the Strimbecks a Special Exception to operate their Bungay Jardins greenhouse-gift shop operation, subject to several conditions, imposed to protect the rights of their neighbors, and to ensure highway safety. The Strimbecks agreed to abide by the conditions imposed by the ZBA as part of the Special Exception to operate which was granted them, and in fact, continue to abide by these conditions to this date. In view of the fact that the Strimbecks have achieved their objective, it has been a disappointment that they have not ended their litigation. To this date, the Strimbecks continue in their current suit against the Town to overturn the ruling of the ZBA that their Bungay Jardins is not a permitted use, but a Special Exception use. The Selectmen have made every effort to minimize legal cost to the Town in the continuing litigation with the Strimbecks, and where permitted by the Court, have represented the Town pro se, without fee. The Selectmen have a statutory duty to enforce the Town's Zoning Ordinance, and plan to continue to do so vigorously in the future.

Citizen Volunteers serve in many capacities within our Town. Their unselfish efforts on our behalf often go unheralded, but nevertheless enrich our lives and help make Easton a unique and special place in which to live. We salute all our Volunteers and dedicate our 1998 Town Report to them.

Selectmen,
Mark W. Brooks, Chair
Gregory M. Sorg
Robert B. Craven

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON - REVENUE

SOURCES OF REVENUE		Estimated <u>1998</u>	Actual <u>1998</u>	Budgeted <u>1999</u>
Taxes:				
3185	Yield Taxes	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 18,731.00	\$ 15,000.00
3186	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	8,000.00	9,531.00	9,000.00
3190	Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	4,000.00	6,785.00	4,000.00
Licenses, Permits and Fees:				
3210	Business Licenses & Permits	50.00	45.00	50.00
3220	Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	30,000.00	35,943.00	30,000.00
3230	Building Permits	100.00	80.00	100.00
3290	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees	200.00	92.00	100.00
From State:				
3351	Shared Revenue	2,700.00	3,496.00	2,700.00
3352	Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution	2,499.00	3,417.00	3,509.00
3353	Highway Block Grant	5,965.00	5,965.00	5,834.00
Charges for Services:				
3401-3406	Income from Departments	-0-	1,469.00	-0-
Miscellaneous Revenues:				
3501	Sale of Municipal Property	-0-	50.00	-0-
3502	Interest on Investments	1,200.00	1,767.00	1,400.00
3503-3509	Other	-0-	611.00	-0-
Other Financing Sources:				
	Amounts Voted from "Surplus"	-0-	-0-	23,960.00
	Fund Balance ("Surplus") to Reduce Taxes	<u>30,826.00</u>	<u>30,500.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Revenues		\$110,540.00	\$118,482.00	\$105,653.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

Subtotal 1	Recommended	\$105,262.00
Subtotal 2	Special Warrant Articles Recommended	6,000.00
Subtotal 3	"Individual" Warrant Articles Recommended	<u>24,960.00</u>
Total Appropriations Recommended		136,222.00
Less:	Amount of Estimated Revenues	<u>105,653.00</u>
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be Raised		\$ 30,569.00

BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF EASTON - EXPENDITURES

PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS	Estimated <u>1998</u>	Actual <u>1998</u>	Budgeted <u>1999</u>
General Government:			
4130-4139 Executive	\$ 5,419.00	\$ 4,995.00	\$ 5,595.00
Franconia Children's Center	-0-	-0-	325.00
4140-4149 Election, Registration & Vital Statistics	2,700.00	2,602.00	2,150.00
4150-4151 Financial Administration	1,915.00	2,771.00	1,915.00
4152 Reappraisal of Property	500.00	240.00	500.00
4153 Legal Expenses	5,000.00	3,311.00	10,000.00
4155-4159 Payroll Taxes	375.00	283.00	375.00
4191-4193 Planning & Zoning	400.00	263.00	460.00
4194 Government Buildings	3,010.00	4,250.00	3,124.00
Article 9 - Capital Reserve Fund for the Town Hall	-0-	-0-	5,000.00
4195 Cemetery	1,700.00	1,336.00	1,700.00
4196 Insurance	4,187.00	3,751.00	4,450.00
4197 Advertising & Regional Associations	1,230.00	1,230.00	1,245.00
4199 Contingency Fund	5,000.00	1,068.00	5,000.00
Public Safety:			
4210-4214 Police	4,300.00	2,026.00	4,300.00
4215-4219 Ambulances	1,350.00	1,330.00	1,330.00
4220-4229 Fire Department	11,500.00	11,424.00	11,900.00
4290-4298 Emergency Management	500.00	943.00	500.00
4299 Other Public Safety Including Communications	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Highways and Streets:			
4311-4312 Maintenance of Highways	24,000.00	17,032.00	24,000.00
Article 8 - Resurfacing/ Repairing Roads	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Sanitation:			
4321-4323 Hazardous Waste Collection	233.00	233.00	-0-
4324 Solid Waste Disposal	13,274.00	14,800.00	17,000.00
Article 5 - Implementation of PAYT Programs			18,960.00
Health:			
4411-4414 Animal and Pest Control	100.00	-0-	100.00
4415 Health Agencies & Hospitals	961.00	961.00	961.00

Welfare:

4442	Administration and Direct Assistance	500.00	-0-	500.00
4445-4449	Tri-County Community Action - Vendor Payments	375.00	375.00	400.00

Culture and Recreation:

4520-4529	Parks and Recreation	3,061.00	2,705.00	4,207.00
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Conservation:

4611-4612	Administration and Purchases of Natural Resources	200.00	200.00	200.00
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Debt Service:

4723	Interest on TAN	250.00	-0-	250.00
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Capital Outlay:

4902	Capital Outlay Equipment	-0-	-0-	1,600.00
4915	To Capital Reserve			
	- Fire Department	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4918	Non-Expendable Trust	<u>-0-</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>-0-</u>

Total Appropriations		\$100,540.00	\$ 86,729.00	\$136,547.00
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STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS AND TAXES ASSESSED

			Tax Rates
Total Town Appropriations Budgeted	\$100,540.00		
Less: Revenues	109,310.00		
Less: Shared Revenues	313.00		
Add: Overlay	3,070.00		
Add: War Service Credits	<u>1,100.00</u>		
Net Town Appropriations		(4,913.00)	
Special Adjustment		<u>0.00</u>	
Approved Town/City Tax Effort		(4,913.00)	
Municipal Tax Rate			-0.18
- - School Portion - -			
Due to Local School	0.00		
Due to Regional School	440,144.00		
Less: Shared Revenues	<u>2,181.00</u>		
Net School Appropriation		437,963.00	
Special Adjustment		<u>0.00</u>	
Approved School(s) Tax Effort		437,963.00	
School(s) Tax Rate			16.62
- - County Portion - -			
Due to County	36,102.00		
Less: Shared Revenues	<u>156.00</u>		
Net County Appropriation		35,946.00	
Special Adjustment		<u>0.00</u>	
Approved County Tax Effort		35,946.00	
County Tax Rate			<u>1.36</u>
Combined Tax Rate			17.80
Total Property Taxes Assessed		468,996.00	
Less: War Service Credits		(1,100.00)	
Add: Village District Commitment(s)		<u>0.00</u>	
Total Property Tax Commitment		467,896.00	

- - Proof of Rate - -

	Net Assessed Valuation	Tax Rate	Assessment
	\$26,348,125.00	17.80	\$468,996.00
	1998 Tax Rate		1997 Tax Rate
TOWN	\$ -0.18	-1.01	\$ 2.08
COUNTY	1.36	7.64	1.14
SCHOOL	<u>16.62</u>	<u>93.37</u>	<u>15.28</u>
	\$17.80/1000	100.00%	\$18.50/1000
			100.00%

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF ASSESSED VALUATION

Land	\$12,311,109.00
Buildings	13,449,525.00
Electric Utilities	642,491.00
Less Blind Exemption	(15,000.00)
Less Elderly Exemption	<u>(40,000.00)</u>
Net Valuation Upon Which Tax Rate Is Computed	\$26,348,125.00
Increase In Net Valuation Over 1997	\$ 105,236.00

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1998

Accrual Basis

ASSETS

Cash - Checking - Unrestricted - General Fund	\$188,636.03
Cash - Checking - Unrestricted - Fire Department	622.82
Cash - Checking - Unrestricted - Cemetery Trustees	620.72
Cash - Checking - Restricted - Conservation Commission	1,757.40
Cash - Checking - Yield Tax Bond	9,873.87
Property Taxes Receivable - Current Year	40,398.00
Tax Liens Receivable	14,034.80
Reserve for Uncollectible	(3,070.00)
Accrued Interest Receivable	<u>1,800.00</u>
Total Assets	\$254,673.64

LIABILITIES

Due to School Districts	\$181,790.00
Yield Tax Bond	9,873.87
Accounts Payable - Vendors	110.69
Property Tax Overpayments	<u>2,078.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$193,852.56</u>
Excess of Assets Over Liabilities - Fund Surplus	<u>\$ 60,821.08*</u>

* \$1,757.40 of Fund Surplus is Restricted.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

As at December 31, 1998

		1997	1998	Increase* (Decrease)
4130	Executive	\$ 90.00	\$ 40.00	\$ (50.00)
4191	Planning & Zoning	236.72	0.00	(236.72)
4194	General Government - Building	133.92	70.69	(63.23)
4210	Police	904.16	0.00	(904.16)
4312	Highways	<u>4,853.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(4,853.50)</u>
Totals		\$6,218.30	\$ 110.69	\$(6,107.61)

* Reconciling amount to adjust Treasurer's Report to accrual basis.

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Town Hall		
Furniture and Equipment		\$ 5,619.00
Land	\$ 29,450.00	
Building	<u>118,550.00</u>	
		148,000.00
Fire Department		
Building, at cost		63,261.00
Equipment	26,000.00	
Trucks	<u>17,500.00</u>	
		43,500.00
Library - Furniture, Books and Equipment		2,200.00
Police Department - Equipment		<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Town Property		\$263,780.00

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the reports and accounts from the Board of Selectmen, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Cemetery Trustees, Conservation Commission, Fire Department and the Trustees of the Trust Funds of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 1998. My examination was made in accordance with the State of New Hampshire guidelines and generally accepting auditing standards as I deemed necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these reports and accounts present fairly the financial position and results of operation of the Town of Easton for the year ended December 31, 1998.

Ralph Brigida,
Auditor

February 7, 1999

TREASURER'S REPORT for the Year Ending December 31, 1998

Bank Balance - January 1, 1998		\$179,091.01
Receipts:		
Tax Collector	\$519,754.67	
Town Clerk	35,943.50	
From Federal Government	9,531.00	
From State of New Hampshire	12,877.24	
From Peoples Bank - Interest	1,701.30	
From Other Sources	<u>2,125.12</u>	
Total Receipts		\$581,932.83
Disbursements:		
To Grafton County	\$ 36,102.00	
To School Districts	419,935.00	
Orders of Selectmen	<u>116,350.81</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$572,387.81</u>
Bank Balance as of December 31, 1998		\$188,636.03

YIELD TAX BOND ACCOUNT
for the Year Ending December 31, 1998

Balance On Hand January 1, 1998	\$17,246.66
Deposits of Bonds	12,074.85
Interest Year to Date	254.26
Refunds to Loggers	(3,410.23)
Withdrawals to General Fund	(16,287.67)
Office Expenses	<u>(4.00)</u>
Balance On Hand December 31, 1998	\$ 9,873.87

DETAILED CASH RECEIPTS

Year Ending December 31, 1998

1080-000	Tax Collector	\$519,754.67
3186-000	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	
	- Federal Government	9,531.00
3220-000	Town Clerk	35,943.50
3210-000	Filing Fees	45.32
3230-000	Building Permits	80.00
3290-000	Miscellaneous Permits	92.00
3351-000	New Hampshire Revenue Sharing	3,495.93
3352-000	New Hampshire Room and Meals Tax	3,416.80
3353-000	New Hampshire Highway Block Grant	5,964.51
3401-000	Income from Departments	1,468.73
3502-000	PNB Interest	1,701.30
3506-000	Insurance Reimbursement/Dividend	<u>439.07</u>

Total Receipts \$581,932.83

DETAILED CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Year Ending December 31, 1998

1110-000 - Tax		
Lien		\$ 22,607.89
2022-200 - Overpayment of Taxes		625.98
4130-000 - Executive		
Salaries	1,300.00	
Outside Services	622.00	
Office Expenses	<u>3,122.77</u>	5,044.77
4140-000 - Election, Registration, Vital Statistics		
Salaries	500.00	
Fees	1,076.50	
Election/Voters	616.74	
Office Expenses	<u>408.29</u>	2,601.53
4150-000 - Financial Administration		
Salaries	1,400.00	
Fees - Miscellaneous	336.00	
Office Expenses	<u>1,034.80</u>	2,770.80
4152-000 - Property Revaluation		240.00
4153-000 - Legal		3,311.28
4153-000 - Payroll Taxes		283.05
4191-000 - Planning & Zoning		

Outside Services	110.00	
Office Expenses	<u>389.79</u>	499.79
4194-000 - Buildings		
Utilities	1,745.84	
Office Expenses	74.80	
Maintenance	1,568.31	
Groundskeeping	<u>924.00</u>	4,312.95
4195-000 - Cemetery		1,700.00
4196-000 - Insurance		3,750.80
4197-000 - Advertising/Regional Associations		1,230.20
4210-000 - Police		
Labor/Services	2,144.49	
Office Expenses	<u>786.07</u>	2,930.56
4215-000 - Ambulance		1,330.00
4220-000 - Fire Department		
Salaries	500.00	
Other	<u>10,950.00</u>	11,450.00
4290-000 - Forest Fires		
Salaries	904.50	
Office Expenses	<u>38.38</u>	942.88
4299-000 - Dispatch Service		1,500.00
4312-000 - Highways		
Maintenance	21,885.93	
Oiling (Article #9)	<u>7,068.00</u>	28,953.93
4323-000 - Hazardous Waste Disposal		223.00
4324-000 - Solid Waste Disposal		14,800.00
4415-000 - Health Agencies		761.00
4419-000 - Other Health		200.00
4449-000 - Tri-County Community		375.00
4520-000 - Recreation		2,705.50
4612-000 - Conservation		200.00
4915-000 - Transfer to Capital Reserve		1,000.00
4931-000 - County Taxes		36,102.00
4933-000 - Schools		<u>419,935.00</u>
Total Disbursements		\$572,387.91

LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Apportionment 1998-1999

Operating Expenses apportioned 100% on 1996-1997 ADM-R. Bond Expenses apportioned 100% on 1996 Equalized Valuation.

Pre-existing Districts	Amounts
Easton	\$ 172,087.00
Franconia	786,333.00
Sugar Hill	<u>405,024.00</u>
Total Tax Assessment	\$1,363,444.00

PROFILE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Apportionment 1998-1999

Operating Expenses apportioned 80% on 1996-1997 ADM-R AND 20% on the 1996 Equalized Valuation. Lafayette share apportioned on 100% on 1996-1997 ADM-R.

Pre-existing Districts	Amounts
Bethlehem	\$1,703,130.00
Easton	268,057.00
Franconia	611,864.00
Sugar Hill	<u>392,920.00</u>
Total Tax Assessment	\$2,975,971.00

TAX COLLECTOR - SUMMARY OF WARRANTS

Levies of 1998 and Prior

DEBITS

	1998	Levies of: 1997 & Prior
Uncollected Taxes		
Beginning of Year:		
Property Taxes	\$ N/A	\$ 42,355.65
Taxes Committed This Year:		
Property Taxes	467,921.00	0.00
Yield Taxes	18,731.07	0.00
Overpayment:		
Property Taxes	1,139.98	0.00
Penalties	0.00	160.50
Interest Collected on Delinquent Taxes	<u>678.01</u>	<u>3,310.11</u>
Total Debits	\$488,470.06	\$ 45,826.26

CREDITS

Remitted to Treasurer During Fiscal Year:		
Property Taxes	\$427,523.00	\$ 42,355.65
Yield Taxes	18,731.07	0.00
Interest	678.01	3,310.11
Penalties	0.00	160.50
Overpayments	1,139.98	0.00
Uncollected Taxes End of Year:		
Property Taxes	<u>40,398.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credits	\$488,470.06	\$ 45,826.26

SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS

DEBITS

	1997	1996	1995
Tax Liens Executed to Town			
Unredeemed Liens Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ -0-	\$ 9,848.31	\$ 4,260.06
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year	22,607.89	-0-	-0-
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)	<u>883.49</u>	<u>1,030.86</u>	<u>1,260.54</u>
Total Debits	\$23,491.38	\$10,879.17	\$ 5,520.60

CREDITS

Remitted to Treasurer:			
Redemptions	\$13,119.61	\$ 5,301.79	\$ 4,260.06
Interest & Costs Collected (After Lien Execution)	883.49	1,030.86	1,260.54
Unredeemed Liens Balance End of Year	<u>9,488.28</u>	<u>4,546.52</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total Credits	\$23,491.38	\$10,879.17	\$ 5,520.60

1998 PROPERTY TAXES DUE

At December 31, 1998

Bailey -----	\$ 693.00
* Bontempi -----	235.00
Brooks -----	3,490.00
Buckland -----	485.00
Casey -----	220.00
Chartier -----	192.00
* Chickering -----	1,164.00
Cimino -----	2,235.00
Day -----	1,071.00
Dempsey -----	376.00
* Furneaux -----	1,592.00
* Garfield -----	929.00
* Hackett, T. -----	1,362.00
Hight -----	628.00
Hitzler -----	282.00
Hunt -----	1,047.00
J. K. Realty -----	120.00
J. K. Realty -----	254.00
J. K. Realty -----	84.00
* Johnson -----	966.00
* Johnson -----	124.00
Kelleher -----	693.00
Kenney -----	946.00
Kenney -----	414.00
Kenney -----	413.00
Kenney, G. -----	914.00
Kenney, G. -----	105.00
Kenney -----	303.00
Kenney, Sr. -----	2,948.00
Lazzaro -----	337.00
Locke -----	399.00
* Matta -----	627.00
* McLaren -----	655.00
* McLaren -----	696.00
* Moody -----	1,347.00
Mt. Valley -----	959.00
Mt. Valley -----	384.00
O'Brien -----	1,560.00
Peckett -----	420.00
Peckett -----	527.00
* Peckett -----	284.00
* Peckett -----	253.00
Petrarca -----	344.00
Place -----	809.00

* Ruch -----	2,044.00
* Schinazi -----	786.00
* Schinazi -----	950.00
Shepard -----	609.00
Shepard -----	555.00
Shepard -----	609.00
Sherburn -----	276.00
* Steketee -----	370.00
Thurston -----	286.00
* Varieur -----	17.00
* Varieur -----	<u>10.00</u>
Total-----	\$40,398.00

* Taxes paid after December 31, 1998.

1997 TAX LIENS DUE As of December 31, 1998

Bailey	\$ 829.05
Brooks	4,034.19
Cimino	1,129.29
Locke, I	490.45
Mt. Valley Trust	554.85
Mt. Valley Trust	382.52
Shepard	<u>2,067.93</u>
	\$9,488.28

* Does not include interest to December 31, 1998

1996 TAX LIENS DUE As of December 31, 1998

Brooks	4,054.15
Locke, I	<u>492.37</u>
	\$4,546.52

* Does not include interest to December 31, 1998.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 1998

Motor Vehicle Registrations	\$ 34,871.00	
Titles	77.50	
Dogs	331.00	
Penalties	32.00	
Municipal Agent	614.50	
Transfer Station Stickers	16.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>1.50</u>	
Total Transferred to Town		\$ 35,943.50
Less Statutory Fees Paid To Clerk		
Motor Vehicles	(516.00)	
Titles	(77.50)	
Dogs	(54.00)	
Municipal Agent	(429.00)	
		(1,076.50)
Net Income for Town		\$ 34,867.00
Town Clerk's Pay	\$ 500.00	
Town Clerk's fees, as above	<u>1,076.50</u>	
	1,576.50	
Expense for Clerk's Office - Utilities	<u>(297.23)</u>	
Total Pay	\$ 1,279.27	

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Collier
Town Clerk

Office Hours

Monday Morning
10 AM - 12 Noon

Thursday Afternoon
4 PM - 6 PM

**BIRTHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON, NH
for the Year Ending December 31, 1998**

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH	CHILD'S NAME	FATHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
Jan. 31, 1998 Littleton, NH	John F. Z. Greene	Christopher Greene	Mary Jo Belnap
Apr. 14, 1998 Littleton, NH	Dodge R. Garfield	Douglas D. Garfield	Toy Annette Robinette
May 11, 1998 Littleton, NH	Jane Ann Beck	Jens Eric Beck	Sheila Joan Connor

**DEATHS REGISTERED
IN THE TOWN OF EASTON, NH
for the Year Ending December 31, 1998**

DATE & PLACE OF DEATH	NAME & SURNAME OF DECEASED	NAME & SURNAME OF FATHER	NAME & SURNAME OF MOTHER
Jun. 2, 1998 Littleton, NH	William H. Nicholson	Roland Nicholson	Cora Hawkins

REPORT OF THE EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1998, the Easton Fire Department responded to 24 calls for assistance. Most calls were minor in size, with one large wild land fire started by a down power line. There were no structure fires in Town this year, and we feel as a Department good fire prevention precautions work.

The Department has had a tank donated for use as a tanker. We are trying to get a newer, safer, more dependable truck to put the tank on. Our summer fund-raiser will be devoted to putting this tank truck into service. It will replace Engine 2, which is getting old and rusty.

We are asking for the help of the residents of Easton with our tank project, also we need volunteers for the Fire Department. Half of our members do not live in Easton. There are jobs on the Department for anyone interested. It is time to help your Town and fellow residents.

Thank you,
Members of Easton
Volunteer Fire Department

EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT Results of Operation For The 12 Months Year Ending December 31, 1998

Beginning Checkbook Balance - January 1, 1998		\$ 530.16
Resources:		
From Town Appropriation	\$ 10,950.00	
From Checkbook Interest	<u>66.25</u>	<u>11,016.25</u>
Total Resources Available		11,546.41
Expenses:		
Repairs & Supplies - Equipment	3,387.19	
Equipment Purchases	2,905.20	
Promotional & Fund-raising Expenses	1,584.26	
Heat, Light & Telephone	1,268.33	
Building Maintenance	329.36	
Dues & Subscriptions	405.94	
Fuel	396.31	
Administration	273.97	
Training	266.00	
Meetings	<u>107.03</u>	<u>10,923.59</u>
Ending Checkbook Balance - December 31, 1998		\$622.82

REPORT OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

To aid your Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department and State Forest Ranger, contact your local Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines of up to \$2,000.00 and/or a year in jail. Violators are also liable for all fire suppression costs.

There are ten Forest Rangers who work for the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau. State Forest Rangers are available to assist communities with forest fire suppression, prevention and training programs as well as the enforcement of forest fire and timber harvest laws. If you have any questions regarding forest fire or timber harvest laws, please call our office at 271-2217.

There are 2400 Forest Fire Wardens and Deputy Forest Fire Wardens throughout the State. Each town has a Forest Fire Warden and several Deputy Wardens who assist the Forest Rangers with forest fire suppression, prevention and law enforcement. Early in 1998, we experienced an ice storm, which caused severe damage to forests of New Hampshire. This damage created a greater potential fire hazard, as well as safety hazards to many areas of the State. Your local Fire Warden and Forest Rangers need your assistance in preventing wildfires in these hard hit areas and throughout the State. If you need assistance or information dealing with ice damaged woodlands, please call 1-800-444-8978.

The State of New Hampshire operates 15 fire towers, 2 mobile patrols and 3 contract aircraft patrols. This early detection and reports from citizens aid in the quick response from local fire departments. This is a critical factor in controlling the size of wildland fires and keeping the loss of property and suppression costs as low as possible.

1998 FIRE STATISTICS (All Fires Reported through December 23, 1998)

FIRES REPORTED BY COUNTY

Belknap	44
Carroll	89
Cheshire	67
Coos	18
Grafton	43
Hillsborough	232
Merrimack	108
Rockingham	121
Strafford	64
Sullivan	12

TOTAL FIRES	798
TOTAL ACRES	442.86

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Smoking	59
Debris Burning	38
Campfire	29
Power Line	14
Railroad	9
Equipment Use	24
Lightning	16
Children	95
OHRV	6
Miscellaneous	53
Unknown	140
Fireworks	6
Arson/Suspicious	16
Illegal	231
Rekindle	43
Disposal of Ashes	19

CEMETERY TRUSTEES' REPORT

One burial took place in 1998, Lillian Bailey died on February 20, 1998, at 80 years of age. Burial took place on June 26, 1998.

Memorial Day Services were once more well attended. Our appreciation is extended to the Howard Shawney Post Veterans of Foreign Wars and to all those who participated in the program. Special thanks to the Easton Fire Department who have been in attendance for the past nine years. Thanks to Pat Every and others who provided refreshments.

We thank those who donated \$172.00 towards Dan Every's Eagle Scout Project to seed the new section of the Cemetery.

Special thanks and appreciation to Dan Every and the Boy Scouts for the fine work seeding and general cleanup and maintenance of the Cemetery.

Financial Statement

Balance on Hand - January 1, 1998 \$ 135.10

RECEIPTS

Receipts from Town	\$ 1,700.00
Plot Sales and Interment Fees	50.00
Donations Towards Dan Every's Eagle Project to Seed New Area	<u>172.00</u>

Total Receipts \$1,922.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Dues	10.00
Flags, Memorial Day, Administrative	117.98
Supplies to Seed New Area	128.40
Lawn Care	1,080.00
Payments to Trust Fund	<u>100.00</u>

Total Disbursements \$1,436.38

Balance On Hand - December 31, 1998 \$ 620.72

Easton Cemetery Trustees,
Joseph Duggan
Robert E. Every
Gregory M. Sorg

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

Year Ending December 31, 1998

PRINCIPAL

INCOME

	Balance 01/01/98	Added Funds or Reinvested	Expended Funds	Balance 12/31/98	Balance 01/01/98	Income	Expended	Balance 12/31/98	Principal & Interest
Common Trust Funds									
Cemetery:									
Peoples Bank	\$6,070.25	\$1,990.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,060.25	\$530.31	\$493.97	\$ 0.00	\$1,024.28	\$ 9,084.53
Woodsville Guaranty	1,890.00	0.00	1,890.00	0.00	53.38	17.81	73.19	0.00	0.00
Total Common Trust	\$7,960.25	\$1,990.00	\$1,890.00	\$ 8,060.25	\$585.69	\$511.78	\$73.19	\$1,024.28	\$ 9,084.53
Capital Reserve Funds									
Equipment:									
Woodsville Guaranty	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 32.82	\$ 90.25	\$ 0.00	\$ 123.07	\$ 2,123.07
Total Capital Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 32.82	\$ 90.25	\$ 0.00	\$ 123.07	\$ 2,123.07
Total Funds	\$8,960.25	\$2,990.00	\$1,890.00	\$10,060.25	\$618.51	\$602.03	\$73.19	\$1,147.35	\$11,207.60

Respectfully submitted,
Trustees of the Trust Fund
Maryanne Chippendale
Angela Brigida
Barbara Collier

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY MEMORIAL FUNDS

As at December 31, 1998

	Principal	Interest	Total
January 1, 1998	\$550.00	\$184.57	\$734.57
Additions	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40.66</u>	<u>40.66</u>
December 31, 1998	\$550.00	\$225.23	\$775.23*

*Amount retained in a certificate of deposit at Peoples Bank of Littleton.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Year Ending December 31, 1998

Balance in Savings Account - January 1, 1998		\$1,507.67
Receipts		
Receipts from Town	\$200.00	
Interest from Bank	<u>49.73</u>	<u>249.73</u>
Balance in Savings Account - December 31, 1998		\$1,757.40

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

There has been little criminal activity during the past year. Certainly, a great deal of credit should go to Easton residents who have kept a close and alert watch.

For some reason, there have been fewer motor vehicle accidents during the year.

In closing, let me again emphasize - **KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN - WATCH FOR UNUSUAL ACTIVITY - EVEN DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS**. There have been burglaries in surrounding towns. Easton has been spared because its residents keep their eyes open.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Every

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The Planning Board sent a confirmation of the Town's inventory of natural, historic and conservation resources to the North Country Council, as they requested. A few members attended workshops on town government issues sponsored by the NCC and the NH Municipal Association. At the State's suggestion, the Board prepared a telecommunications zoning ordinance for consideration by the 1999 Annual Town Meeting.

The Planning Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The meetings are always open. We encourage resident attendance with your ideas concerning the future of your Town. In addition, alternate memberships to the Board are available, and we look for residents to come forward to take these positions.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Craven
Chair

REPORT OF FRANCONIA LIFE SQUAD 1998

This year the Life Squad saw still another increase in our activity. We also saw an increase in our membership. We welcome the following additions from the Town of Franconia, Robert Anthony, Gareth Slattery and John Ireland. With money appropriated from all three Towns, we were able to equip these new members and still upgrade some of our older radio and beeper equipment.

Once again, we wish to thank the citizens of all three Towns for their continued support of the Life Squad.

This year, through private donations, we were able to upgrade our old Defibrillator with a new state-of-the-art one. Once again our thank you.

The following is a breakdown of our activity for 1998, by Town. Our total this year is 109.

EMERGENCY DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	FRANCONIA	SUGAR HILL	EASTON	OTHER
Motor Vehicle Accidents	29	19	2	5	3
Medical Emergencies	29	20	8	1	0
Rec. Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0	0	0
Bicycle Accidents	3	0	1	1	1
Misc. Health Problems	11	5	6	0	0
Cardiac Problems	11	5	2	4	0
Alcohol Problems	0	0	0	0	0
Deaths	4	3	1	0	0
Fire Dept. Assists	3	2	1	0	0
Pediatric Emergencies	1	1	0	0	0
Mt. Rescue Med. Emergencies	2	2	0	0	0
Attempted Suicides	1	1	0	0	0
Minor Med. Emergencies	8	5	2	0	1
No Transport/Refused	1	1	0	0	0
Life Line Calls	5	1	3	0	1
Nursing Home Assists	1	1	0	0	0
TOTAL RUNS	109	66	26	11	6

At this time, I would like to encourage anyone living in the tri-town area who is a certified E.M.T. to consider becoming a member of our Squad. Contact any Squad Member for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Joel N. Peabody,
Franconia Life Squad

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Our summer programs were based out of the Lafayette Regional School. We had co-directors this year, Brian Frenkiewicz and Wendy Lyndes. Brian was also responsible for the Adventure Program which included 12, 13 and 14 year old kids. These kids met twice a week and planned their adventure together. Some things they experienced were canoeing, rock climbing, camping and mountain biking. The 6 through 11 year old kids met Monday through Friday for 8 weeks, with swimming lessons in the mornings, instructed by the flamboyant and perennial Jean Serino. Peter Stewart at the Gale River Motel was generous in letting our kids use his facility for swimming lessons. Dan the man Walker used his talents on the tennis courts.

We offered instructional baseball, farm league and Bambino league hard and softball teams. Our coaches were energetic and dedicated. Mark Maguire was asking for the coaching job but I told him he could never replace Rene Wills. Jim and Mary Colongeli did a wonderful job with basketball again.

Soccer was added this year. Over a hundred kids signed up. Unbelievable! Mike Kenney had his hands full, but did an outstanding job with both a boys and girls team. The boys went undefeated. Gordie Johnk, Steve Horan, Mark Simpson, Bob Gorgone and Barry Field were all MVC's (most valuable coaches).

Our skating rink still can use lots of work. With lots of work from lots of volunteers at the Halloween party, we were able to deposit \$7,000 in the Robert McLachlin Memorial Fund, earmarked for long-term improvements to the rink. Richard McLachlin is maintaining the rink this year.

Our Committee meets monthly to discuss the changing recreational needs of our area and is interested in supporting and providing recreational activities to meet the needs of our community. Parent and community ideas and support are welcome.

The recreational programs we offer involve everyone. We are very fortunate to have the support and dedication of our coaches and parents. We encourage the public to become active in our programs, support the youth and take advantage of the programs we offer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Recreation Committee

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

9-1-1

**POLICE - FIRE
MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

POLICE EMERGENCY

9-1-1

POLICE OFFICER

Robert Every - 823-8090

FIRE CHIEF

Charles Casey

FIRE WARDEN

Michael Valcourt

TOWN CLERK'S HOURS

Monday Morning
10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Thursday Afternoon
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Dogs must be licensed by May 1, 1999

An up-to-date

DOG LICENSE & RABIES CERTIFICATE NUMBER

is required in Easton to license a dog.

**There is a \$1.00 Penalty for every month past May 1, 1999
and a \$15.00 Penalty if dogs are not licensed by June 1, 1999.**

Selectmen meet the 1st and the 3rd Monday of the month from
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Planning Board meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at
7:00 p.m.

